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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

DISPATCH

TO: Chief, MR

FROM: Chief of Station, Germany; Chief of Base, Bonn;
Chief, CSB/Frankfurt; Chief, CSB

SUBJECT: CATIE, C

REFERENCE: CATIE, Trace Response on Wilhelm REISSNER

NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

- REFERENCES: A. BOMB-14796, dated 16 February 1966 (not sent to CSB/U,
Bonn, CSB)
B. BOMB 4794

For Your Information and Action per Paragraphs 4 and 5.

1. The following updated traces on Subject have been provided by
CGASTROP of CATIE in response to request in Reference A:

- A. Dr. Wilhelm REISSNER (B)
DOB: 18 August 1911
POB: Kruskeberg, Lower Saxony, West Germany
Graduate economist.
Married.

MICROFILMED
FEB 27 1970
DOC. MICRO. SER.

During World War II, B achieved the rank of SS-Sturmbannführer and was a
member of NSRA-Amt VI. In his capacity as leader of the Rear and Middle-
East Section, he was temporarily located in North Africa. Immediately after
the German capitulation B was located illegally in Italy.

B. In July 1961 B went to Cairo as leader of an import-export
firm through arrangements made with wartime associates. After circa one-half
year he left the firm because of differences with the management and went
into business in the Fall of 1952 in Egypt as a representative of several
different German business firms, among them, von Ibsch Export, GmbH. In 1957
B was with the largest cement exporter in Egypt. His business activities at
the time took him into Tunisia and Libya.

C. With the help of his numerous Middle East connections B established
in January 1955 the company "The Egyptian-German Engineering and Industrial
Corp. Reissner & Co.", with the address: Cairo, Adly Pashastr 23. In 1957
this company was changed over into a limited partnership. This change took
place because of new Egyptian regulations which prescribed that the owner of

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21 MAR 1966

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25 March 1966

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a business had to possess Egyptian citizenship. B's silent partner was one Hassan ALLAM.

D. B later had some difficulties with Moesch Export, GmbH, since B had been named as an alleged weapons trader in a serialized article entitled "Und nichts dazu gelernt" ("And Nothing New Learned") in the 9/60 issue of the magazine "Krisis".

E. There are numerous versions of B's alleged weapons trading activities which as a rule are based on statements of other weapons traders. Thus, it is difficult to establish the true facts, particularly since such reports are often unreliable. However, B was mentioned specifically in connection with arms brokerage for the first time in 1957. This particular weapons business involved delivery through Yugoslavia to Istanbul, Syria. Since the delivery involved weapons of inferior quality which were considered to be unreliable, the weapons were not accepted by the customer. Disagreements over commission arose between the weapons traders involved in this delivery, as the result of which B was charged with defrauding his colleagues out of the commission due them.

F. B planned to move his business to Morocco after March 1960, from which time he was involved in negotiations with customers representing the FLN and the Algerian Government in exile, most likely in connection with procurement of weapons and explosives. During this period B is alleged to have been in touch with a sizeable group of traders in the Federal Republic who reportedly worked in his behalf to acquire weapons and ammunitions. It is not known whether or not deliveries actually materialized.

G. B moved his primary residence to Munich in August 1960. On 16 October 1960 he was seriously injured in an assassination bombing attempt in Munich. He remained in Munich until around the middle of 1961 for medical care and recuperation.

H. Beginning June 1961 B became active again in North Africa, particularly in Tunis, as a representative of several different German companies.

I. On the basis of his earlier intelligence activities in North Africa it is assumed that B was in contact between 1952 and 1957 with the Egyptian IS. His position at the time appears to have been that of an adviser and agent involved in the collection of intelligence in the field of personnel and organizational matters.

2. Munich files contain no identifiable traces on the firm "The Egyptian-German Engineering and Industrial Corp. BRISSNER and Co."

at UAR

3. Munich files contain undated carded references as follows:

a. ALLAM, Hassan born 1929, residing with family in Horden-City, Eastern Egypt with the following description:

Single, 1.67m. tall, very slim, dark, wavy hair, dark complexion, little beard, speaks good German. Has many debts, smokes Hascich and leads a loose life. Allegedly understands nothing about politics, but is a limited partner of Wilhelm

Beissner

The Egyptian-German Engineering and Industrial

The card cites also the following dispatches: BGIA-24028, 27 August 1957 (240/BEISSNER) and BGQA-93193, 2 October 1957 (240/BEISSNER - R/T) -- (Both destroyed)

b. MOESCH, A.G. West German steel mfg.; with reference to ORL 0034, 28 September 1953, (150.4) (Destroyed)

1 Corp. Beissner & Co.

continued

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WGA 68393

von HOESCH, Hans Leo, Dipl Kfu (merchant), Co-owner of firm
Hugo HOESCH, Munich 23, Franz Josephstr 14/17, telephone 22305 and 22206
(Feinapierrfabrik), with reference to BGIA-10693, 13 September 1954
(150.15, 11007) (Destroyed)

4. CASTROP stated that CATIE maintains a loose contact with B through
a third person and would therefore be interested in any supplemental information
concerning B which KUBARK is able to provide. CASTROP indicated also that
CATIE would like to know the reason for KUBARK's request for traces on B.

5. An early reply as the basis for a response to CASTROP will be
appreciated.

APPROVED: []

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